



STATE OF IDAHO

DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1410 North Hilton, Boise, ID 83706-1255, (208) 373-0502

Dirk Kempthorne, Governor
Toni Hardesty, Director

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND OPPORTUNITY
FOR A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING AN APPLICATION FOR A
TIER II PERMIT TO OPERATE AN AIR POLLUTION-EMITTING SOURCE**

SUBJECT: Application for a Tier II permit to operate an air pollution-emitting source and proposed action: Nu-West Industries Inc., dba Agrium Conda Phosphate Operations (Agrium), Dry Valley Mine, Soda Springs.

PURPOSE: The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has scheduled a period to receive public comments under Docket No. 10AP-0505 concerning the air quality aspects of the project application and the proposed action.

AUTHORITY: In compliance with Section 404, Rules For The Control of Air Pollution in Idaho, notice is hereby given that Nu-West Industries Inc., dba Agrium Conda Phosphate Operations (Agrium), Dry Valley Mine, located near Soda Springs, has applied to the DEQ for a Tier II permit to operate an air pollution-emitting source located approximately 25 miles north of Soda Springs on the Dry Valley Mine Road. Notice is also given that a period for public comment has been scheduled along with an opportunity for a public hearing. These actions are authorized pursuant to Sections 39-105(3)(a), 39-105(3)(j), 39-110, 39-115(1), Idaho Code.

PUBLIC HEARING: Opportunity for a public hearing for interested persons to appear and submit written or oral comments may be provided if written requests are submitted to the undersigned on or before April 11, 2005. Hearing requests should include a brief statement explaining why a public hearing on the air quality aspects of the project would be beneficial.

The selected meeting site will be accessible to the physically disabled. Interpreters can be provided upon five days notice for persons with hearing impairments. For arrangements, contact the undersigned at (208) 373-0234. Braille or taped transcripts can be provided after the meeting for persons with visual impairments.

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY: Agrium proposes to obtain a Tier II operating permit for the Dry Valley Mine due to the change of ownership of this facility. Open pit mining operations are conducted at this facility to obtain phosphorus bearing ore. The proposed permit contains the requirements set forth in the former owner's Tier II operating permit plus additional requirements for the control of fugitive dust emissions.

PROPOSED ACTION: The DEQ has reviewed the application and completed a preliminary analysis of the information submitted by the applicant. The DEQ has tentatively determined that operation according to the proposed Tier II permit will not cause or significantly contribute to a violation of any ambient air quality standard and will not injure or unreasonably affect human or animal life or vegetation.

Based on this analysis, the DEQ proposes to issue a Tier II operating permit to Agrium.

AVAILABILITY OF MATERIALS: A package containing the information submitted by the applicant, DEQ's analysis, and draft action will be available for public review at the following locations:

DEQ State Office
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, Idaho

DEQ Pocatello Regional Office
444 Hospital Way, #300
Pocatello, Idaho

Soda Springs Public Library
149 S Main
Soda Springs, Idaho

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS, ASSISTANCE ON TECHNICAL

QUESTIONS: Anyone may submit written comment regarding the project and proposed action. To be most effective, comments should address air quality considerations and include support materials where available. Comments, requests, and questions regarding the public comment process should be directed to Joan Lechtenberg, Department of Environmental Quality, 1410 N. Hilton, Boise, ID 83706-1255, jlechten@deq.idaho.gov, or (208) 373-0234. Please reference the company name and docket number when sending comments or requesting information.

For technical assistance on questions concerning this project or the permitting process, please contact Dan Pitman (208) 373-0502 or dpitman@deq.idaho.gov.

All written comment and data concerning this proposal must be directed to and received by the undersigned on or before 5:00 p.m. MDT, April 25, 2005.

DATED this 24th day of March, 2005.

Patricia Harrell
Air Quality Division

KH/pah